

I. Invitation to Worship

(2)

"O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name. "

II. Invocation.

We have gathered in Thy sanctuary, O God, that we may together lift up our hearts unto Thee, in praise and thanksgiving for all of Thy goodness to the children of men. May our worship this day be in Thy hearing as a song of gladness arising from hearts pulsating with joy. Turn all our darkness into day and all our sorrow into rejoicing that we may fittingly stand in the presence of the living God and sing before Him our praises to the glory of His name. Thru Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

III. Thanksgiving, Confession, Supplication.

"O Lord, thou art good to all; and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works." How can we withhold our thanks to Thee when in Thee we live and move and have our being and apart from Thee we can do nothing? We are not only sustained by Thy providential care over us but Thine own Spirit is unto us a personal Comforter, Guide, and Teacher. For a way unto Thee and into Thy Truth Thou hast blest us with the precious gift of Thy Love, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

But our joy cannot be full, Heavenly Father, because of the consciousness that we have not always ^{received Thy gifts with gratitude} appreciated Thy gifts. We ~~receive~~ ^{have} from Thy hand our portion of Thy bounty but we forget to thank Thee for it. We regard our achievements as the result of our own ingenuity and labor, unmindful that Thou hast given us our intelligence and strength with which to do things. We are indeed co-labor-

ers with Thee in the great task of redeeming and perfecting mankind. On the one hand, our false pride causes us to deny Thee the glory due Thy name, we claiming for ourselves the credit. On the other hand, our false humility causes us to regard ourselves as worthless and helpless creatures of evil; whereas Thou hast created us in Thy image, and hast called us to forsake our ignorance and sin for ^{thy} a life of wisdom and love. In earnest contrition we ask Thee to forgive us, Heavenly Father. Help us to overcome all our evil habits, to correct our mistakes enabling us to profit by our failures, and in Thy strength directed by Thy Spirit, help us to surmount every obstacle in the way of our perfect living in Christ, with Thee forever. Amen.

IV. Intercession.

Almighty God and Father of all mankind, "let Thy way be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations." Teach men everywhere that is against Thee and the best interests of humanity to allow differences of race, color, nationality, religion, and civilization to keep us continually at enmity one with another. As Thou hast made innumerable varieties of flowers adapted to grow in every clime and under all conditions, yet which can thrive luxuriantly and bloom cheerfully in the same soil, so Thou hast created man in great variety fitting each to his own environment, yet all dependent upon Thee for life and sustenance. May these very differences which are necessary and inevitable cause us to realize that it is foolhardiness and self-destruction to expend our strength in warring against one another. Rather because of them may all peoples seek in peace to honor and obey Thee the Father of mankind. Then there will inevitably follow such a life, a universal religion, and a common civilization that shall fulfill Christ's ideal of the brotherhood of man in the Fatherhood of God. *Thou Jesus Christ*

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name"